PAUL REVERE AND HIS FAMOUS RIDE

A DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF THE MIDNIGHT RIDE TO LEXINGTON IN 1775, WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF REVERE. INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE OLD NORTH CHURCH, REVERE'S OLD HOME, ETC.

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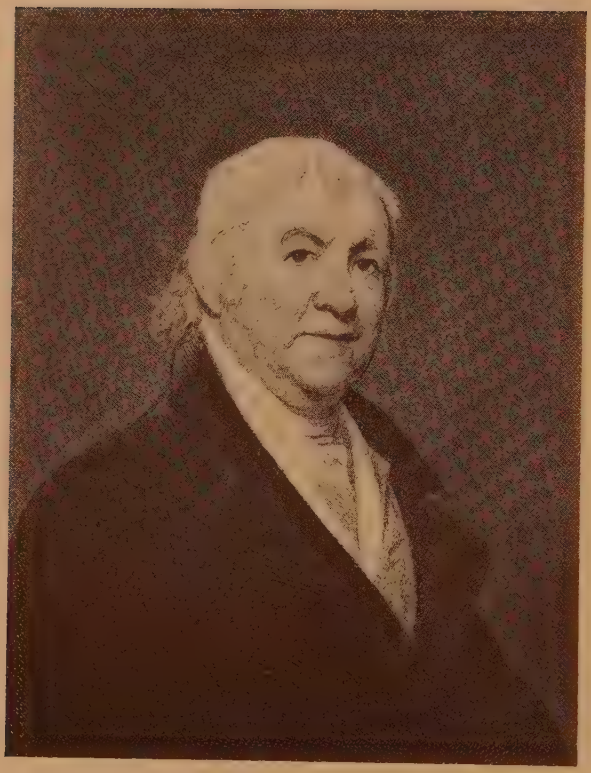
PAUL REVERE AND HIS FAMOUS RIDE



Paul Revere

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and

HIS FAMOUS RIDE

by

CHARLES C. FARRINGTON

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FOREWORD

INTEREST in the name and fame of Paul Revere, versatile Boston craftsman, staunch patriot, and trusted messenger of the Revolution, grows from year to year. Through the story of his midnight ride to Lexington on the eighteenth of April, 1775, so graphically depicted by the Poet Longfellow in his "Tales of a Wayside Inn", the name of Revere is now known practically the world over.

History furnishes no more picturesque, and at the same time thrilling incident of the Revolution, than this single exploit of Revere as he passed swiftly at midnight over the roads of Middlesex carrying the news to the countryside that British troops had started from Boston, and calling to arms the sleeping inhabitants of the farmhouses which lay scattered along his route.

Although only one of many important commissions as a messenger intrusted to Revere

just preceding, and during the early part of the Revolution, it is this particular ride that has made his name famous, because of the fateful day which followed it — the day that marked the actual beginning of the war and the dawn of Independence in America.

In a letter written in 1798 to Dr. Jeremy Belknap, then secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Revere had given a vivid account of his experiences on that eventful night but this letter, long afterward (1835) printed in the Society's "Collections" had probably attracted no unusual attention.

In the course of years following the publication of the letter to Dr. Belknap, brief mention of the ride to Lexington was made by various compilers of American history, but some of these accounts were widely at variance in their description, and quite as inconsistent, also, with the true facts regarding it.

But with the appearance of "Tales of a Wayside Inn" in 1863, a popular interest was crea-

ted and it is doubtless through the spirited lines which comprise the "Landlord's Tale", more than by any other means, that the story of Revere's ride has become so widely known as it is today. While the poem itself contains a number of inaccuracies when facts are considered, and which lead to misunderstanding, it is to be remembered that Longfellow was simply using the incident as a text, and without the idea of adhering strictly to correctness in the details of this historic event.

The purpose in preparing this little book was to put in permanent form as much reliable information concerning the celebrated ride as is possible and at the same time combine with it a brief biographical sketch of Revere, who was, not only during the Revolution, but throughout a long and busy life, one of the outstanding figures of his time in Boston.

The material which has furnished facts for the sketch of Revere's life has been obtained by reference to records in the State archives;

from newspapers of the Revolutionary period in the State and Boston Public libraries; the Journals of the Provincial Congresses; County of Middlesex, and various town histories; and from the following well-known works which have been consulted and quoted: Goss' "Life of Paul Revere", Gettemy's "The True Story of Paul Revere", Frothingham's "History of the Siege of Boston", and the "Memorial History of Boston".

CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
	Foreword	
I.	Paul Revere. Biographical .	5
II.	Revolution Imminent . .	32
III.	The Ride to Lexington . .	38
IV.	The Eventful Nineteenth . .	51
V.	Revere's Route as it is Today .	61
VI.	Revere's Old Home . . .	83
VII.	Footprints of Revere in Other Places	87
VIII.	Christ Church (Old North) .	91

ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
Paul Revere (Frontispiece)	
Revere's Picture of Boston in 1768	8
Home of Revere in North Square	28
Christ Church (Old North)	40
Revere on his Midnight Ride	44
Captain Hall House, Medford	48
Hancock-Clarke House, Lexington	52
Tablet on Concord Road, in Lincoln	54
Buckman Tavern, Lexington	56
Old Powder Magazine, Somerville	66
Isaac Royall House, Medford	68
Munroe Tavern, Lexington	72
Boulder on Lexington Common	74
Old North Bridge, Concord	80
Paul Revere House (restored)	84

PAUL REVERE

BIOGRAPHICAL

PAUL REVERE

BIOGRAPHICAL

PAUL REVERE was of Huguenot descent. He was born at the North End of Boston, January 1, 1735, (December 24, 1734, O. S.) the son of Paul Revere, (Apollus Rivoire) who was the first of the family in America.

Apollus was born in France in 1702 and at the age of thirteen was sent by his parents to the home of his father's brother, Simon Rivoire, who had some time previous to this emigrated to the Island of Guernsey. The lad did not remain long with his uncle but came to Boston where he was apprenticed to one John Cony to learn the trade of goldsmith. In 1723, his employer having died, he paid a brief farewell visit to his relatives across the sea and then returned to America to remain permanently.

Soon after his return Apollus established himself in business as a gold and silver smith.

Now that he had determined to cast his lot for good in America he decided also to Anglicize his name to facilitate both its pronunciation and spelling and henceforth was known as Paul Revere. He married, June 19, 1729, Deborah Hichborn of Boston. Twelve children were born to them; the third child, a son, was named for his father, Paul.

The home of the Revere family at this time was on North (Hanover) street, opposite Clark street, and Paul senior had his shop at the same place. It was a custom in Boston in those days, as it was in England, for a tradesman to use the lower or ground floor of a building for his shop and live with his family in the apartments above.

Young Paul attended the public grammar school on Bennet street,[1] at the North End, taught by the famous master, John Tileston, and when he left school he at once entered his father's shop to learn the trade. Though but a lad he possessed a natural taste for drawing

[1] Now North Bennet street.

and early showed skill in designing many of the various articles there manufactured, becoming proficient as well, before many years, in the actual mechanical work of producing them.

Soon after attaining his majority, in 1756, Paul had his first military experience. In an expedition which had been organized against Crown Point, then in possession of the French, he served as a second-lieutenant of artillery under a commission from Governor William Shirley. This service was without any special incident however; the troops being stationed at Fort William Henry, on Lake George, for a period of six months, when the enterprise was abandoned.

After his return to Boston, Revere married on August 17, 1757, Sarah Orne, and his father having died, he now entered into business on his own account. In a few years he was well established and then, without neglecting his regular calling, as he saw an opportunity to apply his artistic ability or mechanical gen-

ius in other directions, he took advantage of it. Being already skilled in the use of the graver in embellishing the articles he fashioned out of silver and gold in his workshop, he turned, naturally, to the art of copper-plate engraving for illustrations. Although his early plates, as would be expected of one self-taught, were rather crude, the quality of his work improved with experience and practise and some of his later productions possessed considerable merit.

In 1766 he engraved and printed a picture emblematical of the repeal of the Stamp Act, which was followed by another popular print of the landing of British troops in Boston in 1768. In 1770 he produced an engraving depicting the massacre by the British troops in King (State) street. This latter print was widely circulated and became one of his most famous works; others, still, were views of the town and harbor of Boston, and the "Colleges" (Harvard) at Cambridge. He also engraved book plates and illustrations for newspapers.

Revere's Picture of the Landing of Troops in 1763

On the first anniversary of the Boston massacre, March 5, 1771, a series of transparencies, commemorative of the event, were displayed by Revere from the upper windows of his house in Clark[1] (North) square; his own private contribution to the general observance of the day by the townspeople.

Revere at one time practised dentistry as a side line, having learned something of the art from an English dentist temporarily located in Boston. In an advertisement[2] he solicits the patronage of persons who have lost their teeth "by accident, or otherways" and informs the public that he can "fix teeth as well as any Surgeon Dentist who ever came from London." In 1776, when the body of General Joseph Warren was exhumed from the place where it was buried on the field the day following his death at the battle of Bunker Hill, Revere aided in its identification by recognizing the setting of an artificial tooth as

[1] Name changed to North Square in 1789.

[2] Boston Gazette and Country Journal, July 30, 1770.

work which he had once done for Dr. Warren.

Revere's wife died May 3, 1773. He married again, on October 10, of the same year, Rachael Walker of Boston.

Ominous clouds, forecasting the inevitable conflict, were now rapidly gathering on the horizon and ample opportunity was afforded Revere to show his devotion to the cause to which he was so firmly committed. He was a staunch patriot, and while not on a footing with some from the standpoint of statesmanship, he was nevertheless, extremely popular among his associates, exerting an influence which placed him in the front rank with those in Boston who were strenuously opposing the tyranny of the British Government. He enjoyed the fullest confidence of such leaders as Adams, Hancock and Warren, and the services he rendered in executing their commissions were in a way as important as theirs whose education and wealth had placed them in higher positions, politically and socially.

Revere was one of the Boston Committee

of Correspondence and served on some of its important sub-committees. He was a member of the "North End Caucus" and of the "Long Room Club" — political organizations — and was also an active participant in the conferences and doings of the "Sons of Liberty," whose secret meetings were usually held at the Green Dragon tavern.[1] When there was some special work to be done, or plan to be executed, no matter how difficult or how hazardous, he was always ready if called upon to undertake it. His diversity of skill, combined with good judgment and an intrepid personality, made him exceedingly useful to the cause of the patriots, during this critical period.

Revere was one of the famous "Boston Tea Party," a body of citizens disguised as Indians, which, on the night of December 16, 1773, boarded the three tea-laden ships lying at Griffin's wharf[2], and emptied their entire cargoes

[1] The Green Dragon tavern stood on Union street, near Hanover Street.

[2] The site of Griffin's wharf, where the three tea ships lay, is marked by a tablet on Atlantic avenue, near Pearl street.

comprising 342 chests, into the harbor. He was then engaged the following day to carry an account of the affair to the patriots of New York and Philadelphia.

In May, 1774, he was again sent to these places with the news of the passage of the noted Boston Port bill, and of the public meeting held in Boston to express the indignation of the people at this most recent act of Parliament against their liberties.

In September, following, copies of the famous Suffolk Resolves, adopted on the ninth, at a meeting held at Milton, were carried by Revere to the Continental Congess then sitting at Philadelphia. In October another trip was made to Philadelphia while the Congress was still in session.

The last journey made by Revere previous to his Lexington ride, and one which was also of considerable importance, was to Portsmouth, N. H., in the month of December, after England had forbid the Colonies the further importation of powder and military supplies.

The Boston "Sons of Liberty" had learned that reenforcements had been ordered to Fort William and Mary at Portsmouth Harbor, and it was with this intelligence that Revere was dispatched as a messenger to the patriots of that town. The trip was made in record time, and upon his receiving the message of warning from Revere, General Sullivan immediately collected a large force and on the afternoon of the same day attacked the fort. The small garrison could offer but little resistance and one hundred casks of powder and a quantity of arms were taken away by the Provincials.

The attack on Fort William and Mary undoubtedly constitutes the first forcible act in defiance of Great Britain by the Colonists. The powder seized was taken up the Piscataqua river to the Town of Durham where it was stored under the pulpit of the meetinghouse. On the day of the Battle of Bunker Hill some of this same powder was being transported in an ox-cart to Charlestown, where it arrived on the scene of action when

but a single round of ammunition was left to the Provincials. The timely arrival of this fresh supply of powder after a retreat had been ordered by General Prescott, served to cheer the almost disheartened patriots and helped as well to avert their utter rout which had seemed inevitable.

After his ride to Lexington on April 18, 1775, Revere did not see his home again for nearly a year. In view of the prominent part he had enacted in what proved to be the opening scene of the Revolution, he knew that he would be taking great chances by returning to Boston, where he would be sure to fall into the hands of the British from whom he would not have expected to receive any light punishment.

Seeing no prospect of any change in the situation he hired a house in Charlestown and sent for his family to join him.[1] This they were enabled to do about the middle of May; their furniture and other necessary household

[1] Goss' Life of Revere.

goods having already been sent across by the ferry.

Revere placed his shop in the care of a friend to whom he gave the privilege of conducting the business on his own account. The family undoubtedly remained away from Boston during the continuance of the siege, returning after the evacuation of the town by the British, in March of the following year, to their own home.

On the day succeeding the battle of Lexington Revere was engaged by Dr. Joseph Warren as a permanent messenger for the Committee of Safety. There is no record to show that up to this time he had received any remuneration for his services as a messenger, but now that he was prevented from conducting his own business, which deprived him of a regular income, it appears that he was paid for his riding, or at least, some of it.

Early in May, 1775, Revere was commissioned by a committee of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress to prepare notes of the

Colony to the amount of £100,000 to be used for war purposes. He accordingly engraved the plate, built a press and printed the notes. This work was done at Watertown where Congress was then in session.[1]

In the Massachusetts State archives is the following bill[2] rendered by Revere for messenger service and for printing some of the Colonial currency

"1775 The Colony of Massachusetts Bay to Paul Revere, Dr.

	To riding for the Committee of Safety from April 21, 1775 to May 7th, 17 days at 5/	4	5	0
	To my expense for self & horse during that time	2	16	0
May 6th	To keeping two Colony Horses 10 Days at 1/ pr horse	1	00	0
Aug. 2d	To Printing 1000 impressions at 6/ pr Hundd	3	00	0
	Soldiers Notes	11	1	0

"Errors Excepted

"Paul Revere"

"N. B. Ye Government does not charge ye charges of impressions for ye money emitted for other uses than ye Army.

"reduced his Labour to 4/ pr day."

[1] A house was hired in Watertown, from John Cook, which Revere used for his workshop and for which the Colony paid twelve shillings rental.

[2] Vol. 164, p. 3.

This bill, as will be seen by the footnotes, was reduced in amount by the Council before being approved, and a memorandum added, to the effect that the printing of currency for army use only would be paid for. The words "Soldiers Notes" were apparently written in after the bill had been made out and also at a different time.

On the back of the bill is the following endorsement:

"In the house of Representatives, August 22, 1775, Resolved that Mr. Paul Revere be allowed & paid out of the publick Treasury of the Colony, ten pounds, four shillings, in full of the within account."

It bears the signatures of James Warren; Speaker, and Samuel Adams; Clerk.

The Council concurred, and an endorsement to that effect appears also on the back of the paper; the name of James Otis heading the list of signers.

On the tenth of May, 1775, the Second Continental Congress gave Revere an order

for an extensive issue of Bills of Credit, and in December the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts contracted with him for a new issue of the Colonial currency.

Revere was now often called upon to solve some of the difficult problems that from time to time confronted the patriot leaders, particularly when anything was required involving ingenuity or mechanical skill.

In November, 1775, he was sent by the Provincial Congress to visit a powder mill in the vicinity of Philadelphia with instructions to obtain there what information he could in regard to the manufacture of gun-powder, of which the Colony was very greatly in need. He carried with him a letter of introduction to the proprietor of the mill, from Robert Morris of Philadelphia, a member of the Continental Congress, but even this failed to obtain for him the desired privilege. The proprietor was willing, however, to allow Revere to see his mill in operation but would not permit him to make drawings or take any

memoranda whatever in regard to the process.

Following his return to Boston Revere went to work, and with the aid of such knowledge of the manufacture of powder as his keen sense of observation had enabled him to acquire, and store up mentally during his visit to the mill, he had, early in the following Spring, a small mill of his own operating successfully and supplying large quantities of powder to the army. This mill was located at Stoughton in a part of the town which was later set off and incorporated as Canton.

After the evacuation of Boston, Revere was appointed Major of a regiment of infantry which was being raised for the defense of the town in case of a return of the enemy. In April he was transferred to the artillery train and the following November was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He had been hopeful of obtaining a commission in the Continental Army, but for some reason and to his great disappointment, was unsuccessful. He was not of the kind to shirk, however, and

like the good patriot he was, assumed the duties assigned him in the service of the State. His son, Paul Jr., then a lad of only sixteen years, was commissioned a lieutenant in one of the companies of his father's regiment.

Colonel Revere was stationed at Fort William,[1] on Castle Island, in Boston harbor, for the greater part of his term of service which lasted until the end of the war, and during the Winter of 1778-79 was in full command at the fort.

He was, on several occasions, assigned to special duty which took him away from his post. In August, 1778, he was sent to Worcester with a detachment, to bring to Boston the prisoners, numbering several hundred, which had been taken by General Stark at the battle of Bennington. A year later he participated in an uneventful expedition to Rhode Island.

During the last year of the war an episode occurred which threatened, not only to mar

[1] It was also called the "Castle" and "Castle William."

the military career of Colonel Revere, but to injure his reputation as well. In June, 1779, an expedition was fitted out to proceed to Penobscot bay where at Bagaduce (Castine) the British had already begun the erection of a fort. Revere was placed in charge of the artillery division. This expedition ended in failure and what remained of it returned to Boston in September. Commander Saltonstall, who had directed the fleet, was court-martialled while Colonel Revere was accused of disobedience of orders, neglect of duty, and conduct unbecoming a soldier. Revere was arrested and granted a hearing at which he was partially cleared of the charges brought against him. With this verdict, however, he was not satisfied, claiming that he was the victim of the personal malice of enemies, and after persistent efforts he succeeded, more than three years later, in obtaining a fair trial by court-martial, when he was fully acquitted.

Revere returned to his regular business after the war and in the early eighties was con-

ducting a store in Essex street, near the corner of Newbury[1] (Washington) street and opposite the corner where the famous Liberty tree had stood.[2] Here he sold hardware, and goods of his own manufacture which included silverware for the table, candlesticks, jewelry, shoe and knee buckles, and a variety of other useful articles. He also designed and made frames, some of which still surround portraits by the famous artist, Copley.

In 1775 he made an official seal for the Colony and in 1780 engraved a seal for the new Commonwealth. The Indian figure of the Colony seal was retained in the new State seal which, with some modifications in its design, is still in use. Pieces of silverware, beside other things of Revere's make, are now owned by descendants of some of the old Bos-

[1] Newbury street ended, and Orange street began, at Essex street. Both are now Washington street.

[2] The "Liberty Tree" stood near the South-east corner of Orange (Washington) street and Essex street, and was the frequent gathering place of the Sons of Liberty. The tree was cut down by British sympathizers in August, 1775, and upon the stump was erected a Liberty pole. A commemorative tablet is placed in the Washington street front of the building which stands upon the site.

ton families, and are highly prized by them.

In 1789, according to the Boston directory (published that year for the first time) "Paul Revere, Goldsmith" was located at number 50 Cornhill.[1]

In 1792 Revere again enlarged his sphere of business activities by establishing a foundry; this was located on Foster street, corner of Lynn (Commercial) street, at the North End. Here the firm, Paul Revere & Son, cast bells and cannon, and manufactured a large variety of articles from malleable copper by a process perfected by Revere himself.

One important branch of the business was the making of bolts, spikes and other metal parts required in ship building which was carried on extensively in several yards at the North End. The copper work used in the construction of the frigate Constitution, (Old Ironsides) built in 1798 at the yard of Edmund Hartt, was furnished by this foundry.

[1] Previous to 1824, that part of what is now Washington street, between Adams square and School street was called Cornhill. Number 50 Cornhill corresponds to the present number 173 Washington street.

Revere, in 1801, purchased the old powder mill property at Canton[1] where he had made powder during the Revolution, and began the erection of a set of buildings for a new foundry and a rolling mill. The latter was the first mill for turning out sheets of copper in America, and the enterprise was successful from the start.

In 1802 the firm supplied the material for re-coppering the dome of the State House and in 1809 it furnished the copper plates for the boilers for Robert Fulton's Hudson River steamboats. Large contracts were also secured from the National Government for supplying the copper sheathing for war vessels and also for brass cannon for the same. The Boston foundry was discontinued in 1804 and the establishment merged with the more extensive works at Canton.

More than two hundred bells were cast by Revere for churches scattered through the New England states and many of them are

[1] Formerly Stoughton. Incorporated as Canton in 1779.

still in use. The first bell was cast in 1792 for the "New Brick" meeting-house in Boston. In 1816, a bell, said to be one of the finest turned out by the firm, was placed in the tower of King's Chapel, where it is doing service today (1927) and is as rich in tone as ever. Another of the Revere bells is also in use at the Second Church, Dorchester.

Although it did not fall to the lot of Revere to fill any high official position in Town or State councils he never failed to respond to the call of duty as a patriotic citizen. Even when he was in his eightieth year, in 1815, his name headed a list of mechanics who offered their services in helping to prepare for the defense of the town, by throwing up fortifications, when an invasion was feared, near the close of the second war with Great Britain.

Many opportunities came, however, in the course of Revere's long and uncommonly busy life, for the sterling qualities of character he possessed to find recognition aside from the holding of public office. He became identi-

fied with various organizations, both civic and fraternal, and in this connection filled many positions of honor and distinction.

He was admitted to Masonry in Saint Andrew's Lodge, September 4, 1760, and ten years later became Master of the Lodge. In 1783, when Saint Andrew's Lodge was divided upon the question of recognizing the authority of the Masachusetts Grand Lodge, Revere was one of the twenty-three members who withdrew, and in 1784 formed Rising States Lodge, with Revere as the first Master. In 1792 a new State organization was effected under the name "The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts," and of this body Revere served as Grand Master from 1794 to 1797.

It was during his term in office as Grand Master that one of the most notable events of Revere's public life occurred. On July 4, 1795, it was his privilege by virtue of his office, to assist his old friend, Samuel Adams, then Governor of the Commonwealth, in the ceremonies attendant upon the laying of the corner-

stone of the new State House. He was then in his seventy-first year.

Revere was one of the company of Boston mechanics and manufacturers which held several meetings during the early part of the year 1795 that resulted in the organization of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association. In the notices which were published in the papers announcing the various preliminary meetings his name appears signed as chairman, and it was undoubtedly largely due to his efforts that this organization, which in after years became such an important factor in the industrial life of Boston, came into existence. Revere was the first president of the Association, and held the office for three years.

When the question of ratifying the Federal Constitution by the State of Massachusetts, was wavering in the balance in the Convention which met in January, 1788, the mechanics of Boston, of whom Revere was the undisputed leader, held a mass meeting over

which he presided, at the Green Dragon Tavern, and passed resolutions in its favor. These resolutions were carried to the Convention by the mechanics in a body, headed by Revere, and undoubtedly had a helpful influence, indirectly, in determining the result, which was a close vote in favor of ratification.

During all his life Revere lived in Boston. His first known residence after marriage was in Fish (North) Street, at the northerly side of Clark's (Lewis) wharf, in a house which he hired in 1762, of Dr. John Clark. Here was also his place of business at the time.

In 1770 he purchased a house in Clark (North) Square,[1] then the most exclusive residential section of the town, where he made his home for nearly thirty years. There were probably not more than half a dozen houses in the Square at that time and each had its own ample lot and garden. For several years one of Revere's near

[1] Called North Square after 1788.

Revere's Old Home, North Square, Before Alteration

From an Etching by Darius Cobb

neighbors was the Royal Governor, Thomas Hutchinson, who lived in Garden Court, and the fine estate, once the home of Sir Charles Henry Frankland, adjoined that of the Governor.

In 1800 Revere purchased a more pretentious dwelling in Charter street, near his foundry, where he passed the remainder of his days. During the latter years of his life he maintained also a country home at Canton, where the family spent their Summers.

In Revere's youth the family place of worship was the "New Brick," or "Cockerel"[1] Church, in Middle (Hanover) street. Later, in his young manhood, he attended for some time the West Church, Lynde street, where the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Mayhew, with whom he formed an intimate friendship, was pastor. After his marriage he returned to the "New Brick" where he became a regular worshipper.

[1] So called from its cockerel weather-vane made by Shem Drowne who also made the grasshopper vane on Faneuil Hall. The cockerel vane did duty on the "New Brick" for 148 years and now surmounts the spire of the Shepard Memorial Church in Cambridge.

Paul Revere and His Famous Ride

On May 10, 1818, Paul Revere, the patriot, soldier, and withal useful citizen, passed from this life. His body was interred in the old Granary burying-ground in Tremont street, where already reposed the remains of several of his friends and co-workers in the cause of liberty. The Revere tomb is situated in the upper portion of the burying-ground and is marked by a simple marble shaft which bears this inscription:

PAUL REVERE
BORN
IN BOSTON
JANUARY, 1734
DIED
MAY, 1818

When the body of Revere was laid to rest in the Granary ground it marked the burial within this same hallowed inclosure of another of that famous group of patriots which figured in the historic Lexington episode; those already interred in the Granary ground being General (Dr.) Joseph Warren, John Hancock, and Samuel Adams.

The remains of General Warren were transferred in 1825 to a tomb under St. Paul's Church, and again, several years later, were removed to a final resting place at Forest Hills.

Robert Newman, who displayed the signal lanterns from the North Church tower, at Revere's request, is buried at Copp's Hill, at the North End, and William Dawes, the first messenger sent by Dr. Warren, to warn Hancock and Adams at Lexington, in King's Chapel ground, adjoining King's Chapel in Tremont street.

REVOLUTION IMMINENT

During the winter of 1774-1775, in Boston, the war-clouds of Revolution were gathering deeper and blacker; threatening to break forth in sudden fury at any moment. General Thomas Gage had some months since succeeded Hutchinson as Royal Governor, and at the beginning of 1775 had at his command a force of about 4,000 well-disciplined soldiers, and several additional regiments were expected soon to arrive.

The long continued presence of British troops in Boston was constantly growing more unendurable to the citizens, and frequent encounters with the troops served only to increase the feelings of bitterness and hatred on the part of the people. The operation of the Port Bill, which closed the harbor of Boston, had a most serious effect. Business in the town was practically at a stand-still and provisions were extremely

scarce; affecting not only the inhabitants but the soldiery of Gage's army as well.

The Committees of Safety and Supplies, created by the Provincial Congress in October, had been actively engaged in the collecting of arms and ammunition; military and camp supplies of every sort, and depositing them in designated towns, safely remote from the British camp—two of which towns were Salem, and Concord.

The patriots of Boston, under the guidance of their great leaders, were not unmindful of the critical situation. Their apprehension now increased day by day and with it, also, their vigilance. Every means of obtaining information that might be helpful to their cause was resorted to through various agencies and a constant watch kept, day and night, in order to discover any unusual activities of the British. Through the Committee of Correspondence the patriots of Boston were in close communication with their friends in the neighboring towns, and much in the way of military equipment and supplies, which was collected within the

town, was successfully smuggled out through the guarded lines of the British at Boston Neck.

The Second Provincial Congress, adjourned from Cambridge, met in Concord on the twenty-second of March, and after final adjournment on the fifteenth of April, Samuel Adams and John Hancock became guests of Rev. Jonas Clarke at the parsonage in Lexington. It was well known that General Gage had received instructions to arrest these two patriot leaders, and send them to England for trial. For their personal safety, it was therefore considered advisable for them to remain in Lexington, rather than to run the risk of certain arrest by going into Boston.

The attempt of Gage in February to take possession of a number of field-pieces at Salem, had resulted in complete failure and every indication pointed strongly to another expedition being sent to Concord on a similar errand—the seizure of the cannon and other stores known to be deposited in that town.

It was evident now, that the crisis was near at hand. Detachments of the King's troops were frequently sent short distances into the country, as if for exercise, and officers were also detailed to explore and familiarize themselves with the main roads leading north and west from Boston. These movements were both significant, and well understood by the patriots. It meant to them that at no distant day, troops would be on the way to Concord for the purpose of seizing the stores, and doubtless to arrest the patriots Adams and Hancock, as well.

Extra precaution had been taken by General Gage to prevent advance intelligence of an expedition from reaching the country. From now on every person leaving town was challenged, and detained, if at all suspected. The guard at the fortification on Boston Neck, the only point of exit by land, was strengthened, and a strict watch kept upon the boats leaving the Boston end of the Charlestown ferry. The position of the man-of-war Somerset, moored with the other transports in the Charles river,

was shifted so as to cover the ferry-ways with its guns and prevent thereby the crossing of any small boats, after dark.

But the patriots, also, were preparing. The long years of oppression endured by the Colonies through unjust acts of Parliament, they had determined must end. The failure of many remonstrances and petitions for redress of their grievances, and the overtures made by Governor Gage in March, for a peaceful settlement of the existing difficulties, had alike been fruitless. The time for action had arrived.

The Provincial Congress had already voted to raise an army of 12,000 men, a part of which was to be composed of minute-men who would be ready to respond at a moment's notice. Throughout the Province, war-like preparations were now being pushed forward with intense zeal. Arms and equipment of every kind were put into shape for service. Cannon and musket balls were cast in great quantities; cartridges made and filled, and mills started for the manufacture of gunpowder. All the war equipment

together with a vast amount of provisions for feeding an army were allotted to various towns, to be stored until needed. In every community companies of the militia or minute-men, had been organized, and were now being drilled and equipped for active service.

For the purpose of keeping a closer watch over the movements of the British in Boston, a company of some thirty young men, Paul Revere being one of the number, had constituted themselves a sort of vigilance committee, and in parties of two they frequently took turns in patroling the streets all night. On Saturday April 15, at about midnight, their efforts were rewarded when it was discovered that the boats belonging to the transports, which had been hauled up for repairs, were all launched and tied up under the sterns of the ships as if for immediate use. It was also learned that the grenadiers and light infantry were all taken off duty. Something of importance was to happen.

THE RIDE TO LEXINGTON

On Sunday, the sixteenth, of April, Paul Revere was sent to Lexington by Dr. Joseph Warren, Chairman of the Committee of Safety, to acquaint Hancock and Adams with what was transpiring in Boston. This timely warning also afforded an opportunity, on the two following days, to better secure the cannon and army stores at Concord.

Returning to Boston Sunday evening, Revere passed through Charlestown. On meeting there Colonel Conant and others, he arranged with them for a signal to be given in the event of any departure of British troops, by showing lanterns from the steeple of the North Church—one if they went out by land, and two if they crossed in boats. This plan, undoubtedly due to the foresight of Revere, was agreed upon so that if no one could get over in a boat, the news of any

movement by the British, could at once be communicated by means of the signal and messengers dispatched to spread the alarm.

As part of his secret plan to invade the country and seize or destroy the stores at Concord, General Gage, on Tuesday, the eighteenth, sent out a number of officers, with orders to post themselves on the roads where they might intercept any messenger who had succeeded in getting clear of the town. In order not to create suspicion, several of these officers left Boston in the morning and dined at Cambridge. Later in the afternoon they proceeded leisurely, on horseback, in the direction of Concord.

It was discovered during the evening by those on watch in Boston, that several companies of British soldiers had left the barracks and were silently marching to the foot of the Common[1] where boats were in waiting to transport them across the river to Cambridge.

[1] At that time the waters of the Charles river overflowed a large area of flats, coming up at high tide to the lower boundary of the Common. The point from which the British troops started in their boats was near what today is Park square.

At about ten o'clock that night Revere was summoned in haste to the home of Dr. Joseph Warren[1] in Hanover Street. Here he learned of Dr. Warren's desire that he should start at once for Lexington, by the way of Charlestown, and was also informed that William Dawes had already been dispatched some little time before, by the land route through Roxbury; the destination of both expresses, each with a message to Hancock and Adams, being the home of Rev. Dr. Clarke, at the parsonage.

It was from the home of Dr. Warren, then, that Revere actually started on his trip to Lexington that has become so famous. He passed along Hanover street and through Salem street, to the house of his friend, Robert Newman, sexton of Christ Church,[2] who lived at the corner of Sheafe street, and with whom he

[1] Dr. Warren lived at the upper end of Hanover street in a house which stood on the site of the American House. A tablet marks the location today.

[2] Christ Episcopal Church is on Salem street, opposite Hull street. Revere refers to it as the "North Church."

Christ Church (Old North) Boston

arranged for the signal.[1] From Newman's he went to his own home where he procured his riding boots and surtout; then started for Charlestown.

He probably took a direct route through Prince street to the place where he kept his boat; and two friends, Thomas Richardson and Joshua Bentley, rowed him as speedily and with as little noise as possible across to Charlestown. The moon was then rising, and because of the fact that the British man-of-war Somerset was moored in midstream, with guns trained on the ferry-ways,[2] the passage was a dangerous one. Revere, however, would not assume the risk of passing so close to the ship as to land at the ferry. Instead of taking the usual course he gave the Somerset a wide berth, and going further to the east-

[1] Newman, it is said after showing the lanterns from the tower of Christ Church as requested by Revere, left the building by way of a rear window and reached his home across the street without being observed. His home was later visited by British officers who found him in bed. He was arrested and put in jail but as nothing could be proved against him he was released.

[2] The ferryboats were taken off every night at nine o'clok and no boats were allowed to pass after that hour.

ward escaped detection, landing safely near the old battery,[1] a half mile below the ferry, a little before eleven o'clock. The King's troops were at this very time crossing in their boats to Lechmere Point (East Cambridge) where they landed at Phips' farm.[2]

It was none too soon then, that Revere reached the Charlestown shore, for orders had already been issued by General Gage to allow no one to leave the town and to stop all boats. He had learned of the signal lanterns and knew that his plans for a secret expedition were now fully known to the patriots. He was well aware, too, that the news would spread rapidly and that the country would be quickly in arms. There is little doubt that Revere, who was well known through his many activities in behalf of the patriot cause, was one of the first to be

[1] The battery, or sconce, as it was also called, was a small fort which was located in the early days near what is now the entrance to the Navy Yard.

[2] Near the Middlesex County buildings, Second street, corner of Otis street, where a tablet has been placed.

suspected in connection with the signal. If such was the case, and search made for him, he had stolen a march on his pursuers; was already well on his journey, and safely out of their reach.

Directly upon landing, Revere hastened "into town," as he has expressed it, (meaning what is now City Square) where he met a group of citizens, including Colonel Conant, who said they had seen the signal.[1] Time was precious and he went at once to the barn of Deacon John Larkin, who lived near the Square, to procure a horse. While the horse was being prepared, Richard Devens, a member of the Committee of Safety, came to Revere and told him that as he was coming down from Lexington that evening, after attending a meeting of the Committee, he passed ten British officers, well mounted and armed, going up the road toward Concord.

It was not long after eleven o'clock when

[1] Revere does not mention having seen the signal himself, as it was not given for his benefit, and it is doubtful if he saw the lights at all.

his horse was ready and Revere started off at a brisk pace up the main highway; keeping in mind, no doubt, the thought that on the road somewhere sentinels of the British might be posted. For his personal safety, on an ordinary occasion, he would not have been concerned; he was fearless. But he knew the importance of his mission and realized that in case of his capture, and perhaps also, that of the other messenger, Dawes, what serious results might follow. He knew every foot of the roads that would take him to Lexington; he was at home in the saddle, and with a good horse to carry him, was determined to reach his destination if possible.

"A hurry of hoofs in a village street,
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,
And beneath, from the pebbles in passing a spark
Struck out by a steed flying fearless and fleet:
That was all! And yet, through the gloom and the light
The fate of a nation was riding that night."

In less than ten minutes Revere was at Charlestown Common,[1] where the road forked; passing to either side of the Common. One

[1] Now Sullivan Square. It was known also as the "Neck."

Paul Revere on His Midnight Ride

branch turned in a westerly direction, known as the Cambridge, or Watertown road; the other, the Medford, or Mystic road, ran more to the northward over the crown of Winter Hill. The Cambridge road continued from the Neck, at the Common, almost straight to Cambridge Village, where it intersected the Concord road near the colleges.

In turning at Charlestown Common, as Revere did, to the Cambridge road, he was probably following the usual route taken in going to Lexington and the towns beyond. It was a good, level road avoiding the hills of the other route; the distance was less, and he naturally wished to make the trip in the quickest time possible.

It was moonlight, and very clear. He had covered about half a mile and all was well when he was surprised by seeing just ahead of him, under a tree in a narrow part of the road, two men on horseback, whom he discovered were British officers. Now, almost at the beginning of his journey, he had en-

countered trouble. The situation was indeed critical. One of the officers started to get ahead of him, as if to block his passage, and the other endeavored to capture him.

But Revere, had no notion of surrendering or of being taken. He had ridden almost into a trap, as it were, but his resourcefulness did not fail him; he reined his horse sharply about and started at a swift gallop back over the road to Charlestown square and eluded his pursuer.

The only way open to him now to continue on his ride was by the Medford road and he was willing to take again whatever chances it might involve. The officer who had started to follow him was evidently acquainted with the locality and suspected his purpose, for he attempted once more to head him off by cutting across the fields; in doing this, however, he got his horse into a clay pond and went no further in pursuit. Revere was now safely

[1] The point where Revere was stopped by British officers is on Washington street, in Somerville, near the Charlestown line. A tablet marks the spot.

past the danger of capture here and he pushed on. He passed over the sloping side of Ploughed Hill,[1] across the stretch of low land beyond, and then came to the long, steep grade at Winter Hill. Here at the top of the hill was a chance for him to shorten his journey by taking a road which passed the powder magazine, and ran straight on to Menotomy. But he chose to continue by the Medford road, evidently having an object in so doing. He may have had in mind the British patrols which he now knew to be on the roads, and wished to avoid, or, perhaps it was for the purpose of alarming the people of Medford that he went so far out of his way. He has given no reason for his decision, however, so that the matter is only conjecture.

It is not known whether before his arrival at Medford village Revere made any stop to warn the people or otherwise make known the important news that he carried; if he

[1] Later known as Mount Benedict; also Convent Hill. Now levelled.

did, he does not mention it. Now, he undoubtedly felt reasonably safe from pursuit and that any opportunity to give the alarm should not be missed.

On the main road, just after turning to the west at Medford Square, lived Isaac Hall, Captain of the Medford military company, or minute-men, and it was here, according to Revere's own story, that he made the first stop. From Captain Hall's he passed on through West Medford, and at Menotomy entered the main highway — the road to Lexington and Concord.

In his narrative Revere says that after leaving Captain Hall's, he gave the alarm at almost every house on his way to Lexington. It was not necessary for him to make a long stop anywhere; perhaps he did not even dismount. A loud knock at the door of a farmhouse and the voice of the messenger, who was no stranger in these parts, shouting his brief message of warning, was no doubt all that was needed to arouse someone within.

Home of Captain Isaac Hall, Medford

From Menotomy he continued on his way uninterrupted and soon after twelve o'clock rode rapidly into the village of Lexington, having completed his fifteen-mile ride from Charlestown in little more than an hour's time.

On arriving at the house of Rev. Mr. Clarke he found it guarded by a squad of minutemen,[1] in charge of Sergeant Munroe. Upon requesting admittance he was told that the family had retired and that any noise about the place might disturb them.

"Noise!" exclaimed Revere, "you'll have noise enough before long; the Regulars are coming out!"[2]

Revere's reply put an end to the parley and he was allowed to pass. A knock at the door was responded to by Mr. Clarke who, opening an upper window, inquired who was there. Revere, without answering the ques-

[1] On the evening of the eighteenth, several British officers had passed up the road through Lexington, going toward Concord, and fearing for the safety of Hancock and Adams, a guard was placed about the parsonage.

[2] Sergeant Munroe's deposition.

tion, said that he wished to see Mr. Hancock. Mr. Clarke hesitated about admitting a stranger at that hour, but Hancock who had overheard the conversation and recognized the voice of the messenger, cried out: "Come in, Revere, we are not afraid of you!"

THE EVENTFUL NINETEENTH

In the safe arrival of Paul Revere at Lexington, and the delivery of Dr. Warren's message to Hancock, the particular object for which he had been dispatched was accomplished. But that was not all. Through the warning he had given as he passed swiftly through the country the wheels of action had been started and ere long all the machinery at the command of the patriots for further spreading the alarm was in motion.

Meeting-house bells were rung, and guns fired; the flames of signal-fires on hill-tops lighted the sky and the roll of drums, sounding in the stillness of the night, awakened the sleeping inhabitants of the countryside to a situation which, though long anticipated, now immediately threatened. Messengers were hurriedly dispatched on fleet horses to carry

the news to neighboring towns. Old Middlesex was being aroused in a way that it had never been before, and its resolute yeomanry was responding as a man at the call to arms. The anticipated movement of the British had at last been made and the patriots who had been for many months preparing to meet an invasion when it came, were now rapidly rallying for the defense of their homes and their liberties.

Dawes, the messenger whom Dr. Warren had sent to Lexington by way of Roxbury, had not yet made his appearance at the parsonage when Revere arrived. Although his route was the longer he had started from Boston two hours earlier than Revere and should have reached Lexington first. A half-hour later Dawes came. He had succeeded in getting past the British guard at Boston Neck and, so far as is known, in making the twenty-mile trip without any unusual event.

Dawes likewise, as had Revere, gave the alarm along his way through Roxbury and

Clarke-Hancock House, Lexington

Brighton and the warning news was immediately relayed by other riders to adjacent and more distant places.

After a brief rest at the parsonage the two messengers decided to ride on together to Concord to further spread the alarm and assist in securing the stores. They had not proceeded far when Dr. Samuel Prescott, a young physician of Concord, who was on his way home after an evening call in Lexington, came up with them. The doctor approved of their plan, and being well acquainted with the people living along the road, offered to stop with them at the houses as they passed.

They had covered about half the distance from Lexington to Concord when they were halted by a party of British soldiers who had suddenly appeared in the road. Revere, riding a little in advance of his companions who had just stopped at a farmhouse, was made a prisoner. He called to the others to come up, and Dr. Prescott responding, was also taken. Dawes escaped, while his two compan-

ions were forced by their captors off the road into a pasture. Dr. Prescott, knowing the locality well, made a sudden dash; jumped his horse over a stone wall, and regaining the highway some distance beyond, succeeded in reaching Concord.

Revere also succeeded in gaining his liberty but only to be taken again directly, at the foot of the pasture, by six mounted officers who had been concealed in a piece of woods. This time he was ordered to dismount and was questioned sharply while a pistol was held at his head. In some instances he gave evasive replies. He told them that the boats conveying their troops had caught aground; that he had alarmed the country all the way up and that five hundred Americans would be there in a short time. He was then told to mount, and the officers, with Revere and some others they had taken, started toward Lexington.[1]

[1] The officers who halted Revere had already stopped and were detaining Solomon Brown, Elijah Sanderson and Jonathan Loring, who had followed them from Lexington the preceding evening, to watch their movements.

Tablet Marking end of Revere's Ride

When the party had come within half a mile of the village, the prisoners, with the exception of Revere, were set free; he asked to be released also but his request was refused. As they came nearer the meeting-house the sound of guns appeared to alarm the officers and taking Revere's horse from him, to replace one of their own animals that was tired, they rode off rapidly toward Cambridge leaving him once more free. It was now about three o'clock.

While this scene was being enacted on the Concord road the eight hundred British soldiers, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, were progressing on their march. From Lechmere Point, where they landed, they had proceeded as silently as possible, without music, across the marshes; reaching a point on the Charlestown-Cambridge road (now Washington street, in Somerville) near Union square. The troops marched thence by the way of Charlestown lane (Somerville avenue) to the present Beech street, through which they passed, to enter

the Concord road (Massachusetts avenue).

At the first intelligence that the British were on the march, brought by Revere, the alarm was sounded in Lexington. The bell, which hung in a small building on the Common, near the meeting-house, was rung to arouse the inhabitants, and Captain Parker mustered his company of minute-men on the Common. As there was no sign at that time of the immediate approach of the Regulars the company was dismissed, but the men remained within call, making their headquarters at the Buckman tavern, close by.

Revere, after being set free on the Concord road, went across the fields back to the parsonage. Hancock and Adams, who were still there, were now urged to retire to a place of greater safety. They were strongly opposed to leaving, but finally yielding to the entreaties of their friends, consented, and accompanied by Revere and a Mr. Lowell, a clerk of Hancock's, repaired to the parsonage in Woburn Precinct (now Burlington). It was before

Buckman Tavern, Lexington

their leaving Lexington that Samuel Adams, who had gone with others to a hill to the south-east of the parsonage to watch for the approach of the British, spoke the memorable words: "What a glorious morning for America is this!"

After seeing Hancock and Adams to a place of safety Revere returned to Lexington with Mr. Lowell and assisted him in removing a trunk, containing private papers belonging to Hancock, from a room at the tavern.

It was now about five o'clock and as they left the tavern the Regulars were just coming into sight below the village. The company of Lexington minute-men had now been formed in two lines upon the Common and as the advance guard of the British approached Captain Parker gave this order to his men: "Stand your ground; don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war let it begin here."

[1] A boulder on the Common indicates the position taken by the minute-men, on the nineteenth of April, as the British came up the road on their march from Boston.

As the main body of the troops came up, Major Pitcairn, whose light infantry led the van, observing the militia drawn up as if to oppose them, shouted: "Disperse, ye rebels, throw down your arms and disperse!" No attention being paid to this command it was repeated.

The order was then given for the Regulars to fire. A second volley from the enemy's guns was returned by the firing of the minute-men. Captain Parker now realizing how futile would be the resistance of a half-hundred men against such a vastly superior force, ordered his company to disperse. Eight Americans had been slain and nine others wounded. Two of the British were wounded. After a brief halt at the Common the Regulars resumed their march toward Concord.

The alarm which had been given by Dr. Prescott, who reached Concord about one o'clock, aroused the people and called out the minute-men. A portion of the military stores

that still remained at the Centre were hurriedly removed to remote and more secure places, and preparations made to defend the town. The Regulars reached the village between nine and ten o'clock. They set fire to several buildings, including the Town House; destroyed some of the stores which they had found, and did considerable damage to private property. Later, a detachment from the main body, in an encounter with the minutemen of Concord and neighboring towns, at the North bridge, was completely repulsed.

At about noon the invading troops began their retreat in great disorder over the same road by which they had come into town; and back through Lexington Village where but a few hours before they had made such an imposing entry. The Americans, coming from all directions, were now pressing hard upon the fleeing enemy and Earl Percy's arrival upon the scene at two o'clock, with reinforcements, afforded but temporary encouragement and relief. The ranks of the patriots received

constant accessions throughout the afternoon, and the pursuit was continued with unabated energy until the nearly exhausted British were driven, about sundown, into Charlestown, where they sought protection under cover of the guns of their men-of-war.

Nothing is on record to show what Revere's movements were or in what way he was engaged in the exciting scenes of that eventful day. His work of the night before, however, had been well performed, and to him much credit is due for the part he played which contributed in a large measure to the successful outcome of the first day's fighting in the Revolution.

REVERE'S ROUTE AS IT IS TODAY

The route over which Paul Revere traveled on his famous midnight ride to Lexington has naturally undergone many and wonderful changes with the passing of years. It was a farming country, almost entirely, in 1775, with fields and woods all along the way and except in the villages, houses were scattering. The roads were narrow in those days, and either dusty or rutty, according to the season; with higher hills and deeper hollows; and travel was necessarily much slower at any time of the year than it is today.

These sparsely settled rural districts have now grown to be populous cities or thriving towns. A part of Charlestown became the town, and later the city of Somerville, and Medford is also a city. What was in 1775

West Cambridge, (called Menotomy) is now the town of Arlington. Charlestown was annexed to Boston in 1874, while Lexington, as a municipality, remains unchanged.

In tracing the route followed by Revere that April night, and in endeavoring to picture the scene as it appeared to him on his lonely ride, marvellous changes will be noted on every side. For the greater part of the way, now, the roads have been widened; hills have been reduced in grade and hollows filled in; and macadamized or smoothly-paved streets contrast the rough and uneven surfaces of the country highways of a century and a half ago.

Two bridges, one supporting the massive elevated railway structure, span the stream near where Revere crossed in his hand-rowed boat. Telephone and telegraph wires, conveying messages with lightning rapidity, are stretched upon continuous lines of poles along the roads; and even on the darkest of nights the way of the traveler is made cheerful and safe by the friendly glow of electric lights.

Two Radio broadcasting stations, one at the Charlestown Navy Yard and the other at Medford Hillside, come within the limits of the districts included in Revere's ride. Electric car lines, and the railroads, together with countless automobiles on the highways, help to complete the transformation.

But notwithstanding the many changes which have taken place in the long march of time, and through the wonderful achievements which invention and progress have wrought since 1775, there still remain along Revere's route a number of stately old mansions — silent reminders of his passing — which betray no visible sign of their advanced age and seem capable of endurance for perhaps centuries to come.

Several of these priceless relics, some of which date far back of the Revolution, have now come into the possession of local historical or other patriotic societies which means that their future is safeguarded and that henceforth they will serve as useful object lessons in

fostering the spirit of patriotism in coming generations,

The North End of Boston, where Revere always lived, bears little resemblance now to the place as he knew it. Here, at the time of the Revolution, were the homes of some of the most influential citizens, and several churches. The same narrow streets and alleys are still there — most of them retaining their time-honored names — but nearly all of the old houses that were standing in this part of the town in Revere's day have disappeared, gradually, during the last two or three decades, as larger buildings have been erected in their places to keep pace with the rapid increase in population. The North End is still largely a residential section, but is inhabited almost entirely by people of foreign birth, or parentage, and of almost every nationality.

Christ Church alone remains, today, of the several churches in that section in 1775. The house in Hanover street, where Dr. Joseph Warren lived, was taken down in 1835 when

the first American House was built on the site; but fortunately there has been spared the old home of Revere, in North square, where he lived at the time of the Revolution and altogether for a period of thirty years.

The house in which lived Robert Newman, sexton of Christ Church, while still standing, has in recent years been rebuilt and enlarged, so changing its exterior as to obliterate entirely the lines of the old dwelling. The front entrance, however, remains the same and is still numbered, as it has been for many years, 160 Salem street. These two houses, together with Christ Church, comprise now the only buildings at the North End that are associated with Revere or his ride.

There is no landmark whatever in the district of Charlestown today to serve as a reminder of Revere's ride. The conflagration which followed in the wake of the battle of Bunker Hill, on the 17th of June, 1775, swept the entire village and left it in ashes. The home of Deacon Larkin, from whose barn

Revere obtained his horse, was not far from Charlestown (City) Square but owing to changes made in street locations after the fire the exact spot is not easy to determine.

In passing over the road followed by Revere through what is now Somerville, there is not a single building remaining which was there in 1775.

Between Charlestown Common and Winter Hill there were at that time several farmhouses but all of them have long since disappeared. At the summit, was the house of Joseph Tufts, which was removed many years ago to Lowell street, but is still standing. To the south, half a mile distant, was the house of Peter Tufts, also standing, which was the headquarters of General Lee who commanded the left wing of Washington's army during the siege of Boston in 1775-76.

Passing down the northern slope of Winter Hill, as he neared the foot of the steep incline, Revere could have seen in the bright moonlight, across the fields to the west, the

Old Colony Powder Magazine at Somerville

Colony powder magazine. This old structure, built of stone quarried from the side of the hill on which it stands, and dating back to about 1704, is one of the most interesting relics of the Provincial period in Massachusetts today. Built originally as a grist mill it served for that purpose until 1747 when it was sold to the Province for a powder magazine.

It was here that one of the first hostile acts of the Revolution took place, on the morning of September 1, 1774, when British soldiers sent out by General Gage, seized the powder stored in the building — in all two hundred and fifty casks; carried it in carts to the Mystic river and transported it thence in boats to Castle Island in Boston harbor. The venerable structure is now the property of the City of Somerville, presented by the heirs of Nathan Tufts, and around it has been created a beautiful park called Nathan Tufts Park.

Just before coming to the bridge which crossed the Mystic river at Medford Village,

Revere passed the estate of Colonel Isaac Royall, a wealthy East Indian trader. The brick mansion, in all its old-time grandeur still stands, with its slave quarters close by. Royall, who was a Loyalist, fled to Halifax and his estate was confiscated. In 1775, the house was the headquarters of General Stark who commanded the New Hampshire troops which were encamped in the vicinity. It was afterward occupied by General Lee and later by General Sullivan. It is also said to have been the temporary quarters of General Washington during the summer of 1775 when, after the battle of Bunker Hill, it was feared that an attack might be made by the British on Medford. The building is now owned by the Royall House Association and contains a collection of valuable and interesting relics of the Colonial period.

Having crossed the bridge over Mystic river, and entered Medford square, Revere turned to the left and was quickly at the house of Captain Hall of the Medford minute-

Isaac Royall House and slave quarters, Medford

men — probably his first stopping place. The Hall house is still standing, on its original site, at the corner of High street and Bradlee road. In the yard, near the house, is a boulder on which is a bronze tablet commemorative of the ride of Revere and his midnight errand there. Beyond Captain Hall's are several houses which were also standing at the time but between West Medford and Arlington Centre no landmarks of the Revolutionary period are now to be found.

At the point where Revere entered the Concord road, in what is now Arlington Centre, stood in 1775 the Cooper tavern, an old-time hostelry, of which there were several in the town then along the main highway. The old Cooper tavern was replaced by a brick structure early in the last century and this building in turn has now been removed and a modern business block occupies the site.

It is not surprising in such a rapidly growing suburb as the town of Arlington that the greater part of its older houses have of neces-

sity been removed to be replaced by modern structures. From what is now Arlington Centre, to the Heights, (formerly called "The Rocks") there were in 1775 a number of stores and many dwellings along the road. Today only a very few of these old landmarks are left.

In passing westward from the Centre on Massachusetts avenue, the first place of historic interest is at the corner of Jason street, near which stood the farm-house of Jason Russell, and it was at this spot that Russell and eleven others were captured, disarmed and killed by the retreating British, on the afternoon of April 19, 1775. The site is marked by a tablet.

The old Russell house is standing today but has been moved from its former position facing the highway to a new location in the rear of other buildings on Jason street at the corner of Massachusetts avenue, and is now the home of the Arlington Historical Society.

Further along on the opposite side of the

road was the Tufts Tavern, built many years before the Revolution and the last survivor of the old-time inns located within the town of Arlington.

Half a mile beyond Tufts Tavern the road turned slightly to the left and ran up over the steep hill to avoid the low land at the "Foot of the Rocks." This part of the old road is now Appleton street as far as Paul Revere road by which it continues along the hill and soon enters Massachusetts avenue.

On Appleton street, a short distance up on the right, is an old house, ante-dating the Revolution, which was the home of Captain Benjamin Locke of the Arlington minute-men. In 1781 the house was sold to the Arlington Baptist society and after being remodeled was used as their first place of worship. A few years later it was purchased by a son of Captain Locke who restored it again to a dwelling.

Some years ago the road was built from the foot of Appleton Street along the base of the hill

by filling in the hollow, and Massachusetts avenue, is now continuous to Lexington Centre.

LEXINGTON AND CONCORD

True to its traditions and the memory of those who nobly "stood their ground" on the Common on the morning of April Nineteenth, Lexington, in preserving several of its visible reminders of the Revolution, is honoring its brave defenders—the minute-men of 1775.

Through the efforts of an active historical society, three of the older buildings in the town that played such an important part in the events of the opening day of the Revolution, have been saved, and are today in possession of the Lexington Historical Society—the Munroe Tavern, the Buckman Tavern and the Clarke-Hancock house. Each of these three ancient buildings is in itself replete with historic memories and especially interesting to thousands of visitors who come from all parts of the world are the collections of antiquities

Monroe Tavern, Lexington

which are on exhibition at the three houses.

In approaching Lexington from Arlington, about a mile below the Centre on the southerly side of the road, is the Munroe Tavern; built in 1695 by William Munroe, and occupied in 1775 by Sergeant William Munroe, his grandson. This old hostelry was in the midst of the excitement on April nineteenth having been used by Earl Percy as a headquarters after his arrival in the afternoon with reenforcements, and here his wounded soldiers were brought and cared for. President Washington was entertained at the Munroe Tavern on his visit to Lexington in 1789 and the chair in which he sat, as well as the dining table, and some of the dishes he used, are shown to visitors.

Lexington Common — the battle-ground of April nineteenth, and appropriately termed "The Birthplace of American Liberty", is a triangular plot of ground, containing about two and one-half acres, situated in the very heart of Lexington Centre. Here, in 1775,

was located the meeting-house, and near it, in a small building, hung a bell which rang out the alarm after the arrival of Revere, summoning the minute-men, and arousing the inhabitants from their sleep.

The Common, today, is a beautiful spot. The meeting-house and belfry occupy other sites but an appropriate setting is preserved in keeping with the appearance of the place on the eventful day of its history, by three silent witnesses of the battle — The Buckman Tavern, the Jonathan Harrington house and the Munroe house, which are situated on the roads bordering the Common—one on each of its three sides.

At the lower extremity of the Common, facing the approach from the east, stands a handsome memorial fountain, built of field stones and surmounted by a bronze figure of a minute-man grasping a musket, with fixed bayonet. The statue, the work of the sculptor Kitson, is intended to represent Captain John Parker of the Lexington Minute-Men

Boulder on Lexington Common

who led his company of brave soldiers there on the nineteenth of April.

A monument, erected in 1799, in honor of of the men killed in the Battle of Lexington, stands in the south-west part of the Common and is probably the first memorial of its kind to the Revolutionary dead. The remains of those who fell during the engagement are deposited in a tomb near the monument.

A huge boulder marks the position of the minute-men and is inscribed with the immortal words of Captain Parker, the first order given by an officer to his men in the great conflict which eventually severed the political ties between the Colonies and England.

The little building known as the belfry had a somewhat itinerant existence before it was finally demolished by a gale in 1909. It was first erected on an eminence a few rods south of the Common. In 1768 it was moved to the Common, near the meeting-house, where it remained for thirty years. It was then removed to the south part of the town

and used as a blacksmith shop, being returned a hundred years later to its first location on the hill, where it stood until it was destroyed. An exact duplicate of the old belfry has been built on the site where it last stood, a short distance from the Common.

The Buckman Tavern which was the rendezvous of the minute-men on April 19, 1775, stands on Bedford street, opposite the Common on its easterly side. It is the oldest of twelve taverns once doing business in Lexington, having been built in 1690. In it was established the first store in the town, also the first post-office, opened in 1812. The tavern was a near witness to the morning skirmish on the Common and during the retreat in the afternoon two wounded British soldiers were brought there, one of whom died. The building still bears scars made by British bullets.

This property was purchased a few years ago by the town and the extensive grounds are now a part of the park system. The

building has been restored to its original character and architecturally is one of the finest of the old houses in the town.

On the north side of the Common, at the corner of Hancock and Bedford streets, is the old home of Jonathan Harrington, a minute-man, who after being wounded by a British bullet, dragged himself to the door of the house and there died at his wife's feet. The Munroe house, on the west side of the Common, was the home of Marrett and Nathan Munroe in 1775.

The Hancock-Clarke house, on Hancock street, a quarter of a mile distant from the Common, is undoubtedly the most interesting, historically, of any of the old houses in Lexington. Built in 1698 it was the home of two early ministers of the town, Rev. John Hancock, and his successor Rev. Jonas Clarke, but the chief interest in it centres in the fact that it was here Paul Revere came in the early morning of April 19, 1775, with a message from Dr. Joseph Warren of Boston, to

John Hancock and Samuel Adams, who were guests of Rev. Mr. Clarke at the time.

The parsonage formerly stood on the opposite side of the street. The original house consisted only of the present one-story ell, the main portion having been added in 1734. The first occupant was Rev. John Hancock who was minister of the church in Lexington for fifty-five years, and it was his son Thomas, then a prosperous merchant of Boston, who built the new part for his parents. John Hancock, the patriot, and afterward Governor, was the nephew and later the heir, of Thomas. Rev. Jonas Clarke who next occupied the parsonage, lived there until his death in 1805.

Between the parsonage and the Common it was all open land in 1775 and the encounter of the minute-men with the British could be plainly seen from the chamber windows.

With advancing age the house became badly out of repair and its future seemed anything but promising until the building was purchased by the Lexington Historical Society,

with the help of patriotic friends who had become interested in its preservation. The house was removed to its present location in 1896, when complete repairs were made, and it was restored as nearly as possible to its original condition.

Today, the old parsonage is a treasure-house of antiquities and contains an almost priceless collection of articles, owned by the Lexington Historical Society, which recall not only the early history of Lexington but include many actual relics of the famous battle of 1775.

The locality on the Concord road where Revere, while riding in company with William Dawes and Dr. Samuel Prescott on their way to Concord, was captured by British officers, is still open country. A tablet at the side of the road next to the pasture where the prisoners were taken, tells the story of what occurred there that April morning.

While Revere was prevented by his arrest from carrying out his plan with Dawes to

ride to Concord and assist in the work of securing the military stores, the scenes enacted there later in the day are so closely connected with what had already taken place, that any description of the localities concerned is not complete unless Concord is included.

Perhaps from its more inland situation, and therefore less rapid growth, it is only natural that Concord should have retained many of its old landmarks. This naturally tends to give a better general idea of the place as it appeared in 1775, and in some respects it is little changed. The stately character of the older buildings, still well preserved, harmonizes with the natural attractiveness of Concord while the home-like, hospitable atmosphere of other days still pervades this charming Colonial town.

Wright's Tavern which figured prominently at the time of the visit of the British to Concord on April nineteenth, still stands at the Centre and is apparently the same now in its outward appearance as ever. It was occupied

Old North Bridge, Concord

by Major Pitcairn and other officers as their headquarters during their stay in Concord and it was here that Major Pitcairn, while stirring a glass of brandy, made his famous boast that they would "stir the blood of the Yankee rebels before night."

Another building at the Centre, also a relic of the Revolution, is the old Provincial storehouse. This building now forms a part of the Colonial Inn, at the end of Monument Square. There are also, on the Lexington road, which enters the centre of the town, several interesting old houses that were witnesses of the invasion by the British in 1775.

The original North Bridge, the spot where

—"once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shots heard 'round the world"

disappeared many years ago and at least three different structures in succession have been erected at that place. The present bridge, of cement, undoubtedly a permanent affair, is built to conform as nearly as possible in design to the first bridge. A beautiful

statue — The Minute-man — the work of Daniel C. French, a native of Concord, at one end of the bridge, was dedicated on the one-hundredth anniversary of the fight. On the opposite side of the stream is a monument erected as 1836, on the spot where the first of the enemy were killed in the Revolution, and nearby are buried the remains of the two British soldiers who fell.

On Monument street, near the avenue which leads to the bridge, stands the historic "Old Manse," a witness of the battle, and the home at that time of Rev. William Emerson. The place is best known, however, as having once been the home of Nathaniel Hawthorne where he wrote "Mosses From an Old Manse", his first important work.

Nearly opposite the Manse stands what is probably the oldest house in Concord, a portion of it having been built in 1644. Near a door in the ell may be seen the hole made by a British bullet on the morning of the fight at the bridge.

REVERE'S OLD HOME

The old house in North Square so long the home of Paul Revere has passed through many changes regarding tenants and environment, as well as in the building itself, since he left it in 1800. Just when the house was built is not definitely known but it is supposed that when purchased by Revere in 1770 it must have been somewhere about one hundred years old. It may have been built soon after the great fire at the North End in 1676, which destroyed many buildings in that part of the town; it is, however, believed to be the oldest house standing in Boston today. Revere paid for the property £213, 6s, 8d.

When new the house was undoubtedly one of the best of its class and was very substan-

tially built, which accounts for its good condition today. It is one of the few remaining examples in this vicinity of that type of architecture in which the second story overhangs the first; in this instance by a projection of eighteen inches. Some time after the property passed out of Revere's hands alterations were made in the house which greatly changed its appearance. An addition was built at the rear and modern windows were put in.

More than half a century ago the house was a popular boarding-place for sea-faring men and later it had a varying class of tenants. The lower part, which was converted into a store, was last used as an Italian grocery.

The original estate included a lot of land adjoining the present property, upon which an apartment house has been built. An old well in the back yard, which had supplied the Revere family with water, was equipped with a pump as recently as the latter '80s.

In 1908 the Paul Revere Memorial Association undertook the work of restoring the

Revere's Home, North Square

house. The modern windows were replaced by others with leaded sash and small diamond-shaped panes, and the building covered with clapboards, with moulded edge, as it was when first built.

Many changes were necessary in restoring the interior but the work has been done so well that the visitor now sees the old house practically as it was when occupied by the Reveres. On the ground floor is the large living-room and the kitchen, each with its great fire-place, and there are two rooms on the second floor. The heavy, hand-hewed oak timbers of which the frame of the house is constructed may be seen in several places and the original pine boards, some of which are eighteen inches wide, still form the flooring in the large front room of the second story.

The furnishings include several pieces of Colonial furniture, and among the many interesting things exhibited are a number of articles which were the property of Revere

including his flint-lock gun, water ewer, and toddy warmer, while the identical crane which formerly did duty at the kitchen fireplace, has been restored to its old position.

The house is open to visitors, during certain hours, daily, except Sundays.

FOOTPRINTS OF REVERE IN OTHER PLACES

During the year that followed the nineteenth of April, 1775, in which Revere remained away from Boston, he spent considerable of his time at Watertown where he printed the two issues of Colonial Currency ordered by Congress, and also at Stoughton, (now Canton) where he fitted up an abandoned mill and made powder for the army.

The Provincial Congress which had adjourned from Concord to Watertown, met there from April 22, 1775, until it was dissolved on July 19. The General Court, the successor of Congress, held its sessions at Watertown until it was adjourned to Boston, November 9, 1776. With both of these bodies Revere was in close touch, having

received from them his orders for some of the important commissions which he successfully carried out.

Both Congress and the General Court held their sessions at Watertown in the First Baptist meeting-house which stood at what now is the corner of Mount Auburn and Common streets; the Provincial Council held its meetings in the house of Edmund Fowle, on the main road, a little nearer the village. The house of John Cook, in which Revere printed the Colonial notes, stood on Watertown street. The old meeting-house was taken down in 1837 and the Cook house was removed many years ago. Both sites are now marked by tablets. The Fowle house still stands but has been moved to Marshall street, a few rods distant from its first location.

Besides these links which connect Revere in his services to the Colony with the towns of Watertown and Canton, it is also probable that while acting in the capacity of messenger he frequently visited the army camp at Cam-

bridge and his trips there may have taken him to the army headquarters, General Washington's residence, known now as the Longfellow house, on Brattle street.

The name of Revere is commemorated in Boston and vicinity in various ways. The City of Boston has named one of the public schools at the North End, Paul Revere School, and a street on Beacon Hill also bears his name.

Outside of Boston there is the City of Revere, named after him, and at the summit of Winter Hill, in Somerville, is Paul Revere Park, a small triangular plot of ground at the junction of Broadway and Main street; a point which the midnight messenger passed on his ride to Lexington. There is also a Revere street in several of the suburbs.

There is no public memorial to perpetuate Revere's name. Several years ago a movement was inaugurated with that object in view and an equestrian statue of Revere was modeled by the well-known Boston sculptor, Cyrus E. Dallin. This model was approved

by those interested but the plans for completing the memorial have not been further developed. Small copies of this excellent model may, however, be obtained.

CHRIST CHURCH
OLD NORTH

Christ Church, better known as the "Old North," is one of the greatest shrines of American patriotism today and therefore one of the chief objects of historic interest in Boston. It is situated on Salem street, at the North End, near the summit of Copp's hill.

While the Old North is known the world over as the place where the signal lanterns were displayed on the night of April 18, 1775, it has also other claims which entitle it to distinction and its history is unrivalled by that of any similar institution in the country. Having been erected in 1723 it is the oldest public building now standing in Boston, and although there are other church organizations in the city which are older by many years,

none of them has occupied for so long a time the same edifice, or even worships today on the site where its original church building stood.

The Old North is a substantial structure built of bricks imported from England. It is seventy-five feet long, fifty feet wide and thirty-five feet high, with walls two and one-half feet thick. The lower tower is twenty-four feet square. Its walls are three and one-half feet thick and eighty-five feet high. Above the brick work is a tower of wood and from this rises the spire; the combined height of all being one hundred and seventy-five feet. It is a very pleasing example of Colonial architecture, the design of which has been attributed to the great church architect, Christopher Wren.

The interior is of the straight line type of architecture, with arched ceiling supported by fluted columns. There is a gallery on either side and the organ loft at the rear. The windows are large, with small panes of glass.

The pews are the ancient, square type, with doors, hung by heavy, wrought-iron hinges.

Among the cherished possessions of Christ Church are several pieces of the Communion service which were presented by His Majesty, King George II, in 1733, with the Royal Arms of England engraved on each piece. A Bible, also the gift of King George, is a rare and valuable copy printed by John Baskett, at Oxford, England, in 1717. On account of an error in printing it is termed the "Vinegar Bible." The error occurs in St. Luke's Gospel, and where it should read "the parable of the vineyard" the wording appears in this Bible as the "parable of the vinegar."

The organ was purchased and placed in position in 1759. It has undergone renovation several times; new pipes have been installed, but the original case still remains.

The clock, which occupies a position in front of the organ gallery, was placed there in 1749 and is still a good time-keeper. Four statuettes in front of the organ were presented

to the society by one Captain Grushea, who took them from a French vessel, captured by him during the English-French war in 1746. They are fine specimens of Spanish art, carved from wood of superior quality and were intended, it is said, for a church in Canada. There is also a bust of George Washington, which occupies a niche at the left of the chancel, presented to the society of Christ Church in 1815, and is said to be the most accurate likeness of Washington in existence.

The tower contains the first peal of bells brought to this country. They were purchased by subscription at a cost of £560, and were cast by Abel Rudhall, at Gloucester, England, in 1744. There are eight bells, each bearing an inscription. The chime is considered one of the best and sweetest-toned of any in this country. When first installed the bells were rung by a group of men; one for each bell, but this system was afterward changed to that of a single ringer. Charles

H. Jewell, the present ringer, has been at the post more than thirty-five years and is the third member of the Jewell family to hold the position. A Sunday School, which is believed to have been the first one in America, was established in connection with this church in 1815.

From the steeple of Christ Church General Gage is said to have watched the battle of Bunker Hill.

In one of the tombs under the church the body of Major Pitcairn, mortally wounded at Bunker Hill, was placed after his death. Years afterward a request made by the British government that it be sent to England for interment in Westminster Abbey was complied with. The body shipped however, was claimed by the Westminster authorities to be that of another person and the matter was never settled to their satisfaction. It is therefore a possibility that the remains of Major Pitcairn still repose in a tomb under Christ Church.

In 1878 the City of Boston had a stone tablet placed in the front wall of the tower in commemoration of the event which has made the "Old North" world-famous.

Christ Church building is now owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Boston and is under the charge of a permanent rector. Services are held regularly on Sunday and there is a public celebration each year in April on the anniversary of the hanging of the lanterns. The beautiful chime is still heard, as in the olden days, on Sundays, at the Christmas and New Year season, on patriotic holidays, and at times of public sorrow or rejoicing.

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